

On the 17<sup>th</sup> January, the year 5 and 6 girls' football team played their next league game away against Spalding Parish. The girls started the game brightly as they attacked straight from the kick off like the red arrows towards the opposing goal. They were relentless as they were dribbling, passing and tackling the Parish defence not letting them out of their half. The early pressure paid off, as Charlotte weaved passed two defenders before finding the bottom corner of the goal with an excellent finish. Following this, the girls had to be resolute to stop the Parish team attacks and were very tenacious in their defending. Isla particularly shone with her crunching tackles and calm control of the ball as she played it out from the back. Then, after 10 minutes the John Harrox team began to keep possession of the ball and were much better with their composed touches and wonderful transitions of play at great speed. Following these passages of play, chances were created, and the opposing goal was then peppered with shot after shot. After this, Lily used her strength to hold off a defender and thunderously rifled the ball passed the goalkeeper to make the score 2-0. Following this success, Lily doubled her account in quick succession after capitalising on a loose ball, she rounded the defender and slotted the ball into the far corner to make the score 3-0 at half time.

In the second half, the girls were playing the ball well and used the width of the pitch to stretch the play very effectively. Alice, who was a constant threat to the opposing defence, chased down every ball and kept twisting, turning and using her impressive pace to go past the defenders. As the second half wore on the opposition created some chances on the break which forced Abigail into some fine saves to prevent them from scoring. On the break, the opposing forward took two of their chances with two very powerful and emphatic finishes beyond Abigail's outstretched hands to reduce the deficit to 3-2. In response, to extend their lead the John Harrox team then took control of the game as both Holly and Phoebe went on some fantastic marauding runs. The goalkeeper kept many of the chances out before Phoebe smartly finished to make the score 4-2. The game finished 4-2, and the girls should be very proud of their performance. They all worked tirelessly for each other and showed superb team spirit. The player of the match was Charlotte, who covered every blade of grass and was excellent in breaking up play and creating chance after chance going forward.